

## Message Text

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20

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00

FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /137 W

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R 090919Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1046

INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

ALL EC CAPITALS 094

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PASS AGRICULTURE AND STR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT CM UR

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL MEAT CONSULTATIVE GROUP - JULY 1-2 MEETING

REF: GENEVA 4521

1. SUMMARY. THE INTERNATIONAL MEAT CONSULTATIVE GROUP MET ON JULY 1-2. IT HELD CONSULTATIONS ON CURRENT MARKET CONDITIONS AND DISCUSSED HOW ITS PROCEDURES COULD BE IMPROVED. THE DEBATES WERE ENLIVENED BY THE EC REFUSAL TO ACCEPT AN AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL FOR A SHORT-TERM FORECAST ON LIVESTOCK NUMBERS. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE INTERNATIONAL MEAT CONSULTATIVE GROUP MET ON JULY 1-2, THIS WAS THE FIRST MEETING OF THE GROUP UNDER ITS NEW CANADIAN CHAIRMAN, GIFFORD, WHO SUCCEEDED THE NEW ZEALAND CHAIRMAN FALCONER.

3. THE VARIOUS REPORTS BY EXPORTING COUNTRIES ON THE INTERNATIONAL MEAT SITUATION REFLECTED LESS OPTIMISM ON AN EASING OF THE WORLD MEAT MARKETS THAN THE REPORTS MADE AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT A RETURN TO MORE NORMAL MARKET CONDITIONS MAY BE DELAYED DUE TO THE DROUGHT IN EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA. DOUBTS WERE ALSO EXPRESSED AS TO WHETHER THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BECOME A LARGE SCALE IMPORTER OF MEAT IN THE COURSE OF 1976.

4. IN VIEW OF THE DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN BOTH EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA, THE AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE SUGGESTED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP SUBMIT AT THE NEXT MEETING A SHORT-TERM FORECAST (3-6 MONTHS) OF THEIR CATTLE HERDS. AUSTRALIA EXPLAINED THAT FOCUSING ON FUTURE CATTLE NUMBERS IN MAJOR IMPORTING AND EXPORTING COUNTRIES WOULD GIVE A GOOD BASIS FOR ANALYZING THE MARKET OUTLOOK FOR 1977.

5. THE EC DEL WAS FIRST INCLINED TO AGREE TO THIS PROPOSAL BUT RETRACTED LATER APPARENTLY ON THE ADVICE OF THE EC'S CHIEF GATT NEGOTIATOR, LUYTEN, WHO TO EVERYBODY'S SURPRISE ATTENDED THIS PURELY CONSULTATIVE MEETING. EC MEMBER STATE DELS EXPLAINED PRIVATELY THAT THE EC REFUSAL TO AGREE TO THE AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL WAS DUE TO EC FEAR THAT THIS PROPOSAL WAS INTENDED TO OBSTRUCT A NEGOTIATING PROPOSAL WHICH THE EC PLANNED TO MAKE IN THE MTN SUBGROUP MEAT (SEE SEPTTEL). HOWEVER, THE REAL REASON FOR THE EC'S EXTREME NERVOUSNESS ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL WAS APPARENTLY THE CONCERN THAT ANY FORECAST ON THE VARIOUS FACETS OF THE EC BEEF ECONOMY COULD HAVE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS IN THE COMMUNITY. SINCE BEEF PRICES UNDER THE CAP HAVE AN OPERATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR INTERVENTION MEASURES OR THE LEVEL OF THE IMPORT LEVY, ANY STATISTICAL FORELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAST COULD HAVE POLICY IMPLICATIONS.

6. SINCE THE EC AND JAPAN (THE LATTER FOR SIMILAR REASONS) REFUSED TO APPROVE THE AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL, IT WAS DEFERRED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP WHICH IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 15-16.

7. THE DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED TO THE GROUP HAS BEEN

FORWARDED TO FAS/USDA. DALE

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## Message Attributes

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